

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include specific compounds of claim 8. Claims 9 and 10, which depend from claim 1, have also been amended with respect to the compounds of the negative electrode.

Claims 1 and 7-14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 4-132174. Claims 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 4-132174 further in view of Iwata et al (USPN 6,168,888). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 4-132174 further in view of Wang et al. (USPN 5,532,084). Inasmuch as the claims have been amended herein to patentably distinguish over the applied art, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending rejections are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, in rejecting claims 8-10, the Office Action asserts that JP '174 teaches that the carbide may be  $\text{Na}_2\text{C}_2$  or  $\text{K}_2\text{C}_2$ . In response, the Markush group recited by now canceled claim 8 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 7, without the inclusion of  $\text{Na}_2\text{C}_2$  or  $\text{K}_2\text{C}_2$ . Thus, given that neither  $\text{Na}_2\text{C}_2$  nor  $\text{K}_2\text{C}_2$  are recited by the present claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims 5, 6, 9-12 dependent therefrom,

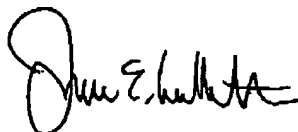
and claim 7 and claims 13 and 14 dependent therefrom, define patentable subject matter.

Iwata et al. and Wang et al., applied against claims 5 and 6, respectively, fail to cure the above-noted deficiencies of JP '174.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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